

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to support the kill motion offered by Senator Wesely. I think Senator Johnson made a point that we are painting a picture. I think that if we stand back and take a look at that picture, if we start with LB 38, when we stand back, we are going to see a self-portrait that resembles one of Dorian Gray. And I just...I worry because I represent a district of rather poor people. The average taxes in the district that I represent are 400 to 700 dollars that they pay annually in property tax. Their average income runs from about \$6,000 to \$15,000. Ten percent reduction in their taxes would mean roughly \$40 to \$70. If we add to that a one cent increase in the sales tax, you are looking at those people on the average of \$12,000 income paying an additional \$120 in sales tax. They receive back 40 to 70 dollars in property tax relief but they pay an additional 80 to 50 dollars in sales tax. I don't know how I can support 38 and go back to the district and say, yes, we got you property tax but we are sticking it to you in terms of sales tax. I can't do that. I have got a lot of people that are on fixed incomes, people that have their homes paid for. Their only cost in terms of their home is upkeep, utilities and the property taxes that they have to pay out of pocket, out of their fixed incomes. I think there are a lot of people here that have districts that are similar, not as severe a case as I represent, but they are similar. They need to think about that. We need to think about just what that additional sales tax increase is going to cost us in the long run. I don't think that 38 gives us the type of property tax relief that we are looking for. In essence, I don't think it gives us any property tax relief. I think it costs us more money. And I know it costs the people that I represent more money. I can't support 38 because I can't support a proposition that says to the people in my district, yes, we are going to give you property tax relief, yes, we are going to give you property tax relief, but we are going to stick it to you when it comes to sales tax. They have to spend their fixed incomes on necessities. They don't have the luxuries. They can't afford them. Their money goes directly for necessities. It goes directly for sales tax and that is what 38 is going to do. It is going to say to those people, pay more in sales tax, have even less for luxuries, have even less for your necessities, have even less to pay your property taxes. So I would like to go on record as saying that I have to